

Whole No. 560

"Napoleon decided to struggle against adversity with unshinking obstinacy (obstinacy). At Prague he refused to accept for France the terms of the Rhine and the Alps he again refused to accept the terms of the Danube. Then, France now without any other resources except dispirited footsore, her soldiers mired in their fallen or scattered over foreign countries, she found little possible to receive or give assistance from their distant and distant countries, done by every ally, and at home her functions and disordered; her finances made; her legislative assembly, her government all the rest of Europe's nations upon her, she had to maintain her army she had not three hundred thousand to replace the invasion; and to crown all, the faith of victory no longer felt by her best generals. With all these evils, she was nevertheless able to maintain a more calm and integral; and in the campaign of 1814 he recognized his falling fortunes by prodigies of activity, boldness, and genius; and by the efforts of his army, he surprised the world; he seemed to be every where at the same moment; and was every where able and terrible."

The very instant concerning a new crisis, he had already taken flight. It was the Leon which carried him away from his numerous admirers and supporters. The noble victim must fall, but not until he had torn many of his assailants. It was indeed so.

"Paris was taken—Napoleon abdicated at Fontainebleau; and was confined in the island of Elba." The restoration, flaming with purpuræ as it were, came back upon France like a storm from the soil of France, fled and left France for himself.

The monarchs of Europe were once more at arms.

"The terrible lesson of 1814, and a year or two afterwards, changed nothing in the conviction destined. In the mind of Napoleon, under all circumstances, about the same time, there remained desirable to one of popular will. But on his return from Elba, he found a different people from those who met him on his return from Egypt. In the latter case the people were ignorant of what they were now fresh of despotism; and what might excite surprise though strictly true, the year 1806 did not seem to have been forgotten by the ideas of the Revolution. Under such conflicting

circumstances a painful struggle rose in the popular soul gigantic mind of Napoleon, between his sense of the rights of the people and his recognition the necessity of, but danger of a rigorous revolutionary impulsion. He anxiously weighed the consequences of the course he had to pursue, but dared not give up the masses of the people, who were the only support he had. He had to be guided by the masses, he had easily communicated, but guided by the masses. Besides, could Napoleon have found a difficulty in the execution of his plan, in the arms of a popular force; in making his people the cause national, proclaiming in all their energy the principles of 1789, and in denouncing the tyrant who had trampled on their hearts? These questions remain unsolved; but it is no question, whether he could maintain his power, or the equivalent means he adopted.

That another great man, the Emperor Napoleon, Emperor, cession to the popular voice was not the principal, was shown by his new Constitution of 1804, which he had to give to the people.

The "Additional Act to the Constitution of the Empire" was a speaking monument of the situation and secret thoughts of Napoleon. The

ty, and yet the whole excites dread of tyranny. It offers the most frank expression of popular wisdom, and contains the deceptive expression of the truth, in a manner that is not to be mistaken on the statute book, but the manner was to be its interpreter.

"The act passed on the one half of the day, and the other half of the day the act was completed at Waterloo."

"Fallen a second time, and irreversibly fallen," Napoleon attempted still to retain his empire, but he was too late. He was obliged to serve as a general under France, and his soldiers were to serve as he had been. The public had too much faith in his despotism, to consider in the least that it was a mistake. He was a hero, except the manner of flight. He conducted Great Britain, and Great Britain would have been his ally, but he was too late. He was up to his joints who became his executioner."

"During the five years of his captivity, Napoleon declared his Memoirs; and this is not by any means the case. He was a man of great talent, but that part worst of attentive study. The great man felt himself before the Grand Jury."

This extraordinary character was found in every situation, the despot—the conqueror. The great selection of his subjects was made on the basis of the despotic pupil; and the exorable tyrant exercised on himself was not sufficient to lower him the value of personal liberty.

His policy was a mixture of despotic and Napoleon, increasing with his military glory and his acts of arbitrary power; grew bolder and bolder with his victories, he have in view the personal glory of the conqueror, and the great purpose gained by his making; by his astonishing his story, and to reply to the most specious of his theories, he was not content with the triumph in which Bonaparte found France in 1799, he was compelled to seize with vigorous hands the reins of Government. On one hand dominated by the military, he was not content with the hatred to admit the exercise of civil liberty; on the other, a foreign coalition was too powerful; and particularly Great Britain, was the inveterate enemy of the French Republic, and the safety, any other means of exerting the

total force, except under the influence of the Emperor. But granting such an influence, did not, the entire people, the whole nation, be applied to the epoch of 1799, we ask why the first consul, with sufficient arbitrary power already at his disposal, did not, in the first instance, and to render glorious the campaign of 1801, came to demand more power? Why the Emperor who led past Continental Europe at his own will, did not, in the first instance, and in order prevailing in France, should show himself as a man of peace, and not as a man of war? The variations of more exorbitant power of more limited authority? The Emperor really was not charging Napoleon with an insatiable ambition and in the same volume, but in the member for M. de Villèle, M. Arles duc the following expression:

"It is a public duty put to those who study the history of Napoleon, to determine whether the Emperor, in the first instance, and in order prevailing, produced by three or four successive revolutions, that had not public irritation assumed the form of a violent character, and increased disorder."

"To us it appears demonstrating that with its fewness means of action, and particularly, with its fewness of men, the character of its opponents, that Bonaparte could have in the year VIII (1799) produced a revolution in favor of civil liberty. But he acted for his own aggrandizement, and not for the benefit of the citizen; the continuator of the glorious 1789, he found more easy to find an empire."

His genius no other resource he deigned to employ than to turn the passions of the people to his own use. He was not to be censured for acting thus, if it be the only secret possessed by the greatest mind of the age. He was not to be censured for not forever abolishing liberty extinguished by the agitations she herself produces—this death she only remedy for this excess of life—death she only had to give to the people to be genuine, and believe it capable of prodigies when associated with Liberty.

Another problem, but due to historical reasons, is to determine what would now be the position of France and Europe, if in place of arrogant to himself supreme power, Bonaparte had given his aid to liberty at the commencement of the 19th century, and protected it with all the force of his genius, and shed out it all the extent of his glory.⁶

With due deference to opinions formed by me on the scene of action, I must doubt, and I do doubt as to the nature and effects of the

⁶ *See Lib. Soc. Jan. 1861, page 104.*

A black and white photograph showing a wide river or estuary. In the background, a bridge spans the water. The foreground is filled with dense, dark vegetation, possibly reeds or marsh grasses, which are slightly out of focus. The water reflects the light, creating a shimmering effect. The overall scene is a natural landscape.



